

Impacting Lives

2012 Kenya Trip Summary:

In Nairobi we visited Nairobi Great Commission School meeting with staff and students. HHI 's Ebenezer Udofia led the tour of the food and agriculture training (bread making, catfish farming, rabbit



raising, chicken raising, and raised bed drip irrigated vegetable production. The group visited the NGCS/HHI farm plot where students are raising more vegetables. The stay

in Nairobi also included a visit to Kenya Christian Industrial Training Institute and the Made in the Streets child rescue program. As we learn more about the mission of these other faith based groups we expect to see ways that we can join forces with them to impact people for the Lord

In Tulia, Kenya the team visited community development projects that ranged from animal projects to women's cooperatives involving sewing, goat raising, soap making, and vegetable production. The goal of "helping people help themselves" is being achieved using mini-loans and mini-grants. For example, those interested in raising rabbits are expected to join the rabbit keepers group, learn how to raise rabbits, and then build their own rabbit cage prior to receiving a bred rabbit.

Next came the 3-day food security workshop where 75 farmers completed 10 raised beds, each 17 meters long. Farmers learned to make compost piles, construct raised planting beds, install drip irrigation, and use mulch. With one \$15 drip kit and 5 gal of water in the morning and 5 gal of water in



the evening a farmer can raise enough vegetables to feed a family of 5 during the dry season. In the 4 days following the workshop the team visited several farmers who had already constructed raised beds and were asking for drip kits. Once the raised beds are completed HHI has committed to providing drip irrigation kits. Now 3 weeks later Justus Mutua has visited 16 of the workshop students who have each constructed at least 10 raised planting beds. One lady has already conducted her own workshop teaching 10 other ladies. The workshop goals of teaching people who will use what they learn and share the knowledge with others is being achieved.



The "Caring for Kenya" demonstration farm where the workshop was held also includes rabbits and chickens with milk goats to be added in the near future. The agriculture training and the demonstration farm give people hope that life can be better for them and their families. Mutonguni secondary school also serves as a demonstration plot for the area with over 20 raised beds and chickens. They have a dairy cow that will arrive next month. When the team toured the area they discovered that the diesel powered water pump at one borehole near Tulia was not operating. Performing the necessary repairs and servicing the diesel engine made it possible to restore water to 5,000 people. It was exciting to see the people return to the well for water. The smiles and the laughter told the story of how they felt about having clean water again.

The team learned through a farmer in the food security workshop that the Kagii windmill powered well in a neighboring community had not worked for 18 months. With the help of the local water committee and the District well technician the team and ten local volunteers began converting wind power to electric power. With the help of a

block and tackle chain and pulley system, the 300 feet of pump rod and 4" pipe inter casing were pulled and replaced with the electric submersible pump provided by World Vision. The results are water flowing to 8 kiosk distribution points providing water for 7,500 people. The restoration of the well served as training for Kenyans who will



help with future water projects. Americans and Kenyan working shoulder-to-shoulder created the opportunity to building relationships. When the community came together on Tuesday July 25th to celebrate the water flowing again, Erastus Kavuti, Caring for Kenya African Coordinator, had the opportunity to speak about the living water available through Jesus Christ.

Hydro-geologist team member Dean Ekberg evaluated potential drilling sites in 5 communities in eastern Kenya and on the the Healing Hands land near Machakos. The combination of satellite imagery, geological surveys, and visual examination helps prevent drilling a dry hole. The next water project was the actual drilling of a 440 feet deep well near the Caring for Kenya 16.5 acres purchased to locate a secondary school and a Nairobi Great Commission School extension site. By the time the drilling had reached 380 feet we had hit water 4 times with the fourth hit resulting in water spraying over the top of the drilling rig! I missed lunch but ate "carry out"... maize and beans in a plastic bag at 4:00 because I wanted to video tape the drilling. The pump testing of the well indicated a yield of 1500 liters/hour. The

water will serve around 7,000 people including the secondary school. It is our hope that the five U.S. and four Kenyan Rotary Clubs we have talked with about providing clean water will help with the cost of the pump, water tank, and kiosks



for the last two drilled wells. With Rotary Clubs from two countries working together on the project, we can apply for a matching grant from Rotary International. Next week we are set to begin drilling an additional well on the Caring for Kenya demonstration farm property.

Medical supplies and 100 water filters provided by Healing Hands and Caring for Kenya were distributed to hospitals, medical clinics, and families. The hospital was impressed by the fact that the water filter will remove 99.9% of the bacteria from the water as well as the parasites. When we asked how we could help them in the future, in



addition to medical supplies, they asked for baby clothes. They said young mothers often do not have

clothes to put on their new baby. Over 180 eye exams were given with 127 pair of eye glasses being given out. We were told that an eye exam and a pair of glasses would typically cost a Kenyan \$40. Smiles from people with new glasses exploring things they have never seen before brings smiles to us as well. Celestine shared with us four medical cases where surgery may be required. We wired money for the needed treatment and possible surgeries. In Zombe we discovered a young boy who is cross eyed. We are currently seeking a surgeon who can help him.

The ladies on the team visited 16 secondary schools delivering a packet of school and personal hygiene supplies to 62 sponsored students. Packets were left with the Lewis to deliver to the other 23 sponsored students. The visits reaffirmed the importance of helping these young people get an education. Six more orphans or children from very poor families were identified needing assistance

with school fees. Over and over we hear how once students become sponsored and know the school fees are paid, they are able to concentrate on their school work and their grades improve. Several of our students are number one in their class.

Some students even become tutors for other students. Some students have received university scholarships.



Vincent, one of our graduates, is now a 5th grade teacher and his class is ranked number one of the 19 schools in his district.

During the 2 ½ week trip in addition to visiting 6 congregations we were able to have many visits of encouragement in the homes of families. When the people give us gifts and fix us a meal we know that they are making personal sacrifices. It is humbling to see people that are so poor be so willing to give to others. I think it impacts everyone and helps us to see what God expects from us. Over 175 dresses and shorts were provided to children in the poorest congregations resulting in smiles on the faces of children and mothers. Requests for Bibles, song books, teaching supplies for children's Bible class, and preacher training were received. One of the highlights of the trip was baptizing 5 people into Christ from the Mwanga congregation. As we meet physical needs opportunities are created to meet spiritual needs. When we share God's love through agriculture, education, health care, water, and com-



munity development, the people began to ask the question, "Why are these people doing this for me?". During our visit as well as after we leave Kenyan Christians have the opportunity to share

the Gospel. As it says on our T-shirt we are "Joining hands and hearts together in service to God".`

Carl Burkybile
